

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12812 170503Z

11

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 AID-10 L-02 OMB-01

DPW-01 PRS-01 RSR-01 IO-03 /081 W

----- 103064

R 161325Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4670

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12812

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP JULY 8 -14 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO DATED 14 JULY
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0575

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUSWNAT: WEEKLY SITREP, JULY 8-14, 1973

SUMMARY: LITTLE APPRECIABLE MILITARY ACTIVITY UNFOLDED
IN THE DELTA DURINSTHE FOURTH WEEK OF CEASEFIRE II. ARVN
OFFICIALS CLAIM THEY ARE SUCCESSFULLY PACIFYING CHUONG OJ
THIEN. MGEN NGHI TOLD GEN WEYAND OF SUPPLY PROBLEMS. TWO
MORE RIVERINE CONVOYS PASSED PEACEFULLY THROUGH THE
DELTA EN ROUTE TO RELIEVE BESIEGED PHNOM PENH. VINH BINH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 12812 170503Z

RECEIVED A NEW PROVINCE CHIEF. ICCS REGION VII PROBABLY

WILL NOT INVESTIGATE A RECENTLY RECEIVED PRG COMPLAINT AGAINST THE GVN. AN AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. END SUMMARY

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) THE DELTA CONTINUES RELATIVELY PLACID DURING THE FOURTH WEEK OF CEASEFIRE II. ALLEGED VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED BY MR IV AVERAGED ABOUT 20 PER DAY, WITH A HIGH OF 33 REPORTED JULY 13. DAILY CASUALTIES REPORTED AVERAGED ABOUT TEN RVNAF ANN35 VC/NVA DEAD.

(B) 14 OF 33 INCIDENTS REPORTED JULY 13 TOOK PLACE IN CHUONG THIEN, INCLUDING TWO GROUND ATTACKS AND NINE ATTACKS BY FIRE. BUT EVBE CHUONG THIEN, LONG THE MOST HOTLY CONTESTED PIECE OF DELTA REAL ESTATE, REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET. MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL JULY 9 THAT HE HAD ORDERED HIS FORCES IN CHUONG THIEN TO EXPEL THE VC FROM ALL POSITIONS GAINED SINCE JANUARY 28 AND TO PUSH THE ENEMY BACK INTO THE U MINH FOREST IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE PROVINCE. NGHI'S NEW COMMANDERS IN CHUONG THIEN, PROVINCE CHIEF COL HO NGOC CAN AND 21ST ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER BGEN LE VAN HUNG & ARE CATUIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC. THEY CLAIM TO HAVE FORCED THTXJ VC D-1 REGIMENT OUT OF NORTHEASTERN CHUONG THIEN AND INTO NEIGHBORING PHONG DINH. HUNG SAID THE VC ARE LAUNCHING ONLY OCCASIONAL MORTARINGS AND HARASSMENTS AGAINST GVN POSITIONSQ (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE SUCH OPTIMISM TO BE PREMATURE. CHUONG THIEN HAS BEEN THE GRAVE OF MANY GVN SOLDIERS AND EXPECTATIONS. THE VC D-1 REGIMENT HAS LARGELY REPAIRED TO PHONG DINH, PART OF ITS TRADITIONAL AREA OF OPERATIONS, BUT IT MAY BE PLANNING TO RETURN TO CHUONG THIEN, AS IT FREQUENTLY HAS BEFORE.)

(C) TWO RIVERINE RELIEF CONVOYS PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT THROUGH MR IV LAST WEEK EN ROUTE TO PHNOM PENH. NINE VESSELS MADE UP THE JULY 9 CONVOY AND 14 THE JULY 12 FLOTILLA.

(D) AN AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER OVER KIEN HOA JULY 12
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 12812 170503Z

TOOK GROUND FIRE BUT LANDED SAFELY AT ITS BEN TRE DESTINATION. ALTHOUGH FOUR ROUNDS STRUCK THE UNOCCUPIED CO-PILOT'S SEAT AND ONE DAMAGED THE ROTOR BLADE, NO ONE WAS INJURED. THE LAST SUCH AIR AMERICA INCIDENT OCCURRED MAY 7 OVER BA XUYEN WHEN HOSTILE FIRE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED A PORTER.

2. ICCS: THE SAIGON JMC FORWARDED TO ICCS REGION VII

JULY 10 A PRG COMPLAINT AGAINST GVN "LAND GRABBING" IN CHUONG THIEN. THE REGION VII CANADIAN CHIEF OF DELEGATION SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED CEASEFIRE VIOLATION, BUT THAT ALL FOUR ICCS DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THEY COULD NOT INVESTIGATE THE COMPLAINT WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF A PRG LIAISON OFFICER. HE SAID HE DOUBTED THAT THE PRG WOULD DEPLOY A TEAM TO CAN THO BEFORE THE CANADIANS DEPART JULY 25, AND THEREFORE THE PRG COMPLAINT WAS PROBABLY A PROPAGANDA GAMBIT.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES:

(A) LTC CAO TAN HAP REPLACED COL NGUYEN HUU KIEM AS VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF. HAP, FORMER CJN BE DISTRICT CHIEF, DINH TUONG PROVINCE, HAS A CREDITABLE RECORD IN COMBAT AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS. AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS RATED HIM THE BEST AMONG THE DINH TUONG DISTRICT CHIEFS.

(B) AT HIS MONTHLY MEETING WITH PROVINCE CHIEFS AND DIVISION COMMANDERS ON JULY 12 MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGHI PARTICULARLY SINGLED OUT KIEN HOA AND AN XUYEN PROVINCES AS REQUIRING GREATER EFFORTS TO ASSURE SECURITY FOR THE POPULATION.

(C) MGEN NGHI MENTIONED SEVERAL SUPPLY PROBLEMS TO VISITING GEN WEYAND JULY 11. HE SAID THAT FUEL, PARTICULARLY DIESEL, IS SHORT AND HAS RESULTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IN STOPPING THE ARVN ENGINEERING HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. NGHI ALSO TOLD OF SHORTAGES OF 105 AND 155MM GUN TUBES AND SPARE PARTS FOR APC'S.

LEHMANN
UNQUOTE.
APPLING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 12812 170503Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON12812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LEHMANN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730731/aaaaawsg.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY SITREP JULY 8 -14 1973 THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO DATED 14 JULY
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005